



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CLAIMS BOARD

500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2713

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

John Naimo
Auditor-Controller
Laurie Milhiser
Chief Executive Office
John F. Krattli
Office of the County Counsel

NOTICE OF MEETING

The County of Los Angeles Claims Board will hold its regular meeting on **Monday, December 5, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order.
2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.
3. Closed Session - Conference with Legal Counsel - Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).
 - a. Claim of Vince Ruiz

This claim arises from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an employee of the Sheriff's Department; settlement is recommended in the amount of \$30,000.

[See Supporting Documents](#)

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.
5. Approval of the minutes of the November 21, 2011, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

[See Supporting Document](#)

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.
8. Adjournment.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Claim of Vince Ruiz.
CASE NUMBER	N/A
COURT	N/A
DATE FILED	April 4, 2011
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Sheriff
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 30,000.00
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Bergener & Associates
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	Vicki Kozikoujekian Principal Deputy County Counsel (213) 974-8208
NATURE OF CASE	<p>On October 4, 2010, a Sheriff's Deputy, while in the course and scope of his employment, caused an automobile collision.</p> <p>Plaintiff claims that the Sheriff's Deputy negligently entered the intersection against a red light. The County claims that the Sheriff Deputy attempted to stop but was unable.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, the Sheriff's Department proposes a full and final settlement of the case in the amount of \$30,000.</p>

PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$	00.00
-----------------------------	----	-------

PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$	00.00
---------------------	----	-------

Case Name: Claim of Vince Ruiz



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for attachment to the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	Monday, October 4, 2010; approximately 11:09 a.m.
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Claim of Vincent Ruiz</u> Summary Corrective Action Plan No. 2011-026</p> <p>On Monday, October 4, 2010, at approximately 11:09 a.m., a Los Angeles County deputy sheriff was driving an unmarked Los Angeles County-owned vehicle west on Alondra Boulevard, Santa Fe Springs, when the vehicle he was driving struck the plaintiff's vehicle in the intersection of Marquardt Avenue.</p>

1. Briefly describe the root cause(s) of the claim/lawsuit:

The plaintiff claims damages for injuries he sustained in the traffic collision.

This incident was thoroughly investigated by representatives from the Whittier Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Their investigations concluded the deputy sheriff caused the collision by failing to stop at a steady circular red signal, a violation of California Vehicle Code Section 21453(a).

2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department had relevant policies and procedures/protocols in effect at the time of this incident.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's training curriculum addresses the circumstances which occurred in this incident.


The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's administrative review revealed employee misconduct. Appropriate administrative action was taken.

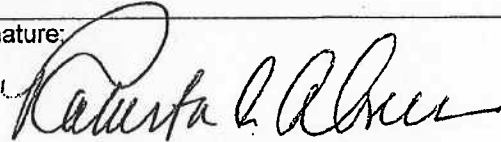
County of Los Angeles
Summary Corrective Action Plan

3. State if the corrective actions are applicable to only your department or other County departments:
(If unsure, please contact the Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch for assistance).


- ☐ Potentially has Countywide implications.
- ☐ Potentially has an implication to other departments (i.e., all human services, all safety departments, or one or more other departments).
- ☒ Does not appear to have Countywide or other department(s) implications.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator)	
Shaun J. Mathers, Captain Risk Management Bureau	
Signature: 	Date: 11/17/11

Name: (Department Head)	
Roberta A. Abner, Chief Leadership and Training Division	
Signature: 	Date: 11/17/11

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Branch

Name: LEO COSTANTINO	
Signature: 	Date: 11/23/2011

I:\Risk Mgt. Inspector General\CAP-SCAP-RECAP\Summary Corrective Action Plan Form 2-01-10 (Final).docx

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

November 21, 2011

1. Call to Order.

This meeting of the County of Los Angeles Claims Board was called to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was held in the Executive Conference Room, 648 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Los Angeles, California.

Claims Board Members present at the meeting were: John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli.

Other persons in attendance at the meeting were: Office of the County Counsel: Robert Reagan, Brian Chu, Stephen Morris, and Mary Wickham; Department of Public Works: Michael Hays; Department of Public Health: Jim Day; Department of Public Social Services: Cathy O'Brian, Norma Doctor Sparks, Sherise McDowell-English, and Sharon Fisher; Department of Human Resources: Cecile Ochoa and Letitia Ellison-Cooper; Outside Counsel: Shant Kotcharian and Zhenia Agadzhanova.

2. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Claims Board on items of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Claims Board.

No members of the public addressed the Claims Board.

3. Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9).

At 9:34 a.m., the Chairperson adjourned the meeting into Closed Session to discuss the items listed as 4(a) and 4(f) below.

4. Report of actions taken in Closed Session.

At 11:27 a.m., the Claims Board reconvened in open session and reported the actions taken in Closed Session as follows:

a. Richard Davis v. County of Los Angeles, et al. Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. MC 021 753

This lawsuit arises from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident involving an employee of the Department of Public Works.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$50,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

b. **Claim of Riverside County Sheriff's Department
(Brian Carrico)**

This claim seeks reimbursement for the costs of a search and rescue operation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$24,655.92.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

c. **Claim of San Bernardino Sheriff's Department
(Edward Rosenthal)**

This claim seeks reimbursement for the costs of a search and rescue operation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$43,664.39.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

d. **Claim of San Bernardino Sheriff's Department
(Michelle Yu)**

This claim seeks reimbursement for the costs of a search and recovery operation.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$64,609.96.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

e. **Cole Landowski v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 451 279**

This lawsuit concerns allegations that an employee of the Department of Public Health was subjected to retaliation and harassment.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved settlement of this matter in the amount of \$57,500.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

**f. Robert Cruley v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. BC 422 758**

This lawsuit concerns allegations of alleged disability discrimination and failure to accommodate by an employee of the Department of Public Social Services.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors the settlement of this matter in the amount of \$130,000.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

5. Approval of the minutes of the November 7, 2011, regular meeting of the Claims Board.

Action Taken:

The Claims Board approved the minutes.

Vote: Ayes: 3 - John Naimo, Laurie Milhiser, and John Krattli

6. Items not on the posted agenda, to be referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a further meeting of the Board, or matters requiring immediate action because of emergency situation or where the need to take immediate action came to the attention of the Board subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

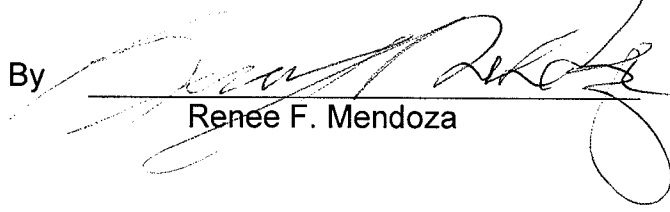
No such matters were discussed.

7. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES CLAIMS BOARD

By


Renee F. Mendoza